

Balboa Heights, C. Z.,  
August 6, 1941.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_:

Reference is made to previous communications with you. Your assistance in gathering information concerning national defense and the protection of The Panama Canal and its appurtenances from attack or sabotage has been valuable and effective.

While again calling your attention to the fact that we must keep continually on the alert against attempts by nationals of the belligerent European countries or persons instigated by them to damage the Canal, I desire to warn you that we must pay particular attention to the situation in the Pacific.

At the press conference in Washington today, Mr. Hull stated that the United States Government is greatly concerned over the intentions of Japan in the Orient and emphasized that the Japanese move into Thailand would further threaten and endanger American interests and security.

The Panama Canal is the most vulnerable point in the long line of national defense, and we have resident in the terminal cities here 302 Japanese nationals, 80% of them vigorous young men of military age. The local leaders of this colony are familiar with the operation of the Canal, the topography of the country, roads in the Canal Zone and the interior of the Republic and the coastline on both coasts in both directions from the Canal, and are very likely familiar with the approaches to our most vulnerable points. They are as conversant with events in the Orient as we ourselves, with perhaps the advantage of direct communication with their own government, and we know that they will overlook no opportunity to do something here in the interests of their country.

It is a matter of common knowledge here and in the United States that Japanese ships are no longer using the Canal, which indicates that the only interest Japan can have in The Panama Canal is in its destruction.

World conditions being what they are, it seems inevitable that our country will be drawn into this conflict. We here on the

*Encl #3*

*56-646*

Canal must not forget that it is vulnerable and that we, the civilian employees of The Panama Canal and resident U. S. Citizens in the Republic of Panama, are its best protection against the acts of sabotage that any reasonable man must now expect will be directed against it.

An emergency actually exists and we should report without delay the smallest incident that might in any way affect the welfare of the United States or The Panama Canal.

Respectfully

- 2 -

*Corit*  
*encl. 3-*

*7-5-46*